Bewdley,
August 12th 1941.

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To the Town Council of Bewdley:

Gentlemen:

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Health my report for the year 1940 is confined to "essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year."

Vital Statistics. The population of the District for the year 1938, the last full year of peace, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 4,296. For the year 1940 it is estimated at 4,338, which, considering the large number of persons temporarily resident in the District, appears to me to be an under estimate, being only 42 more than that for 1938.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to the District was 55, giving a rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the population.
The corresponding figures for 1938 were 48 and 11.1, and for the year 1939 56 and 12.8 respectively, which I consider to be a very satisfactory comparison in the second year of War.
The number of births registered during the year was 72, giving a rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of the population.
The corresponding figures for 1938 were 70 and 16.2 and for 1939 79 and 18 respectively.

Infectious Diseases. There was aconsiderable amount of Influenza during the first quarter of the year, when the weather was very severe, but no death was attributed to it, and, at the same time an outbreak of German Measles.
An epidemic of Whooping Cough began in July and lasted for the rest of the year: 51 cases were notified, but no death occurred.
A severe epidemic of Measles began in the latter end of October, and lasted to the end of the year: 131 cases were notified, but there was only 1 death.
There were 13 cases of Pneumonia, with two deaths, 15 of Scarlet Fever, all of which were isolated at their own homes, with the exception of one evacuated child, which was sent to the Isolation Hospital, with no deaths, 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, with no deaths, 1 case of Cerebro Spinal Fever, and 4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, from which disease 2 persons died during the year.
Considering the very large number of people temporarily residing in the District, and the consequent over-crowded state of many of the houses, I consider that the fact that there were only 3 deaths, 1 from Measles and 2 from Pneumonia, during the year, attributed to notifiable Infectious diseases, reflects great credit on all concerned in their care.

Sewerage The work of laying the new sewers has been carried on during the year, but, owing to the ever-increasing shortage of labour, the progress of the work has

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been much delayed.

Evacuation. A very large number of persons have been evacuated into the District during the year, either voluntarily, or under the Government Evacuation Scheme. There have been a considerable number of cases of Impetigo, and some of Scabies, but, apart from that, as far as my knowledge goes, this influx has been in no way detrimental to the health of the District. Hernes Nest, and part of Sandbourne House, have been taken over under the Evacuation Scheme, the former as a Hostel for children who, for some reason, are not suitable for ordinary billets, the latter for families.

Both Institutions, after some initial troubles had been got over, are now functioning satisfactorily. The Oddfellows Convalescent Home was taken over by the County Council as a Home for Expectant Mothers in the last stage of pregnancy. This has been a great success from the very start.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) U.W.N. Miles.

Medical Officer of Health.

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